Interest on loans to Indian Shipping Companies

1747. KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of interest on loans to shipping industry in the country has recently been raised;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider the decision to provide concessional interest rates enabling the shipping industry to recover and to become economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal to provide loans at further concessional interest rates to shipping industry as the present rate of 7½ per cent per annum itself is quite low.

Preservation of Banswara Temples in Rajasthan

1748. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in the 'Indian Express' of the 5th October, 1985 regarding neglected temples of Banswara where country's architectural wealth is lying in utter neglect; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken by Government to preserve the architectural wealth in Banswara temples in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SMT. SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Government is aware of the press report on the Temples of Banswara.

(b) The Shiva temple and ancient remains at Arthuna and the ancient remains at Vithal Deva in District Banswara are under Central protection. The loose architectural members and sculptures are housed in the sculpture shed at the site. Necessary Watch and Ward staff is posted at the site to look after the temple and the sculptures. Structural repairs to the Shiva temple at Arthuna have been completed and repairs to the Suryakund are being taken up in the current financial year.

Drumken piloting in Air Service

1749. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases of 'drunken piloting' of the Air India/Indian Airlines flights, the commanders during the last two years in violation of flight safety regulations; and

(b) what action has been taken by Government against these pilots to ensure strict adherance of the flight safety regulations for the safety of the passengers and the aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There has been not a single case in the last two years in Air India/Indian Airlines where a drunken pilot had flown an aircraft.

(b) Does not arise.

Pregnant Women affected by Mythyl-Iso-Facilities for trawler units

1750. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 4th October, 1985 wherein it has been stated that about 400 pregnant women who were affected by methyl-Iso-Cyanate poisoning from the Union Carbide factory, Bhopal in December, last year have undergone abortions;

(b) whether any study was conducted in these cases before the abortions were conducted; and

(c) if so, what were the reasons for abortion?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Government are aware of the Press Report. However, according to results obtained from studies carried out in 10 areas of Bhopal, upto 30-10-85, 366 women have aborted due to the leakage of poisonous MIC gas from the Union Carbide factory on the night of 2nd December, 1984, of these 342 are reported to have had spontaneous abortion and 24 had induced abortion.

The ICMR are engaged in monitoring the pregnant women exposed to gas in order to evaluate its potential teratogenic effects on pregnancy outcome and to monitor the growth and development (Physical and Psychological) of infants born to these mothers.

Railway's failure on energy front

1751. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Advisory Board on Energy (ABE) has cautioned the Railway authorities for its failure on energy front;

(b) if so, what are the views of ABE exposed in its report "Towards a perspective on energy demand and supply in India in 2004-05; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government on these findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The Advisory Board on Energy (ABE) have only stated that they had not been able to find out about Indian Railways' Plan to improve efficiency of energy utilisation till the publication of their report.

(b) ABE has stated that since the acquisition of diesel and electric locomotives' designs of 1950s vintage, by Indian Railways in the early 1960s, considerable improvements and innovations have taken place abroad in diesel and electric traction technology, which have resulted in fuel economy.

They have also stated that the freight wagon wheels in use, are large and heavy; the reduction in tare weight of freight wagon equipment through use of modern design and material have demonstratively led to fuel efficiency elsewhere.

(c) Indian Railways have extensive plans for improving efficiency of energy utilisation. These are expected to significantly reduce energy consumption per unit of transport by the turn of the century.

सब स्थानों के लिए अमरीकी सहायता के लिये सहकारी संस्था से प्राप्त खाद्य सामग्री

1752. श्री प्यारे लाल खंडेलवाल: क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान भारत को अमेरिकन प्रेषण सहकारी कार्पोरेशन (केअर) से सहायता के रूप में कितना खाद्यान्न तथा खाद्य सामग्री प्राप्त हुई ;

(ख) क्या "केअर" से प्राप्त खाद्यान्नों तथा खाद्य सामग्री के वितरण के लिये कोई निर्धारित प्रक्रिया है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(घ) क्या इस प्रक्रिया का ठीक प्रकार से पालन किया जा रहा है;

(ङ) क्या यह सच है कि "केअर" खाद्य-सामग्री इस शर्त पर देता है कि उसका कुछ भाग आदिवासी क्षेत्रों तथा खाद्यान्नों के अभाव वाले क्षेत्रों में मुफ्त वितरण के लिये विदेशी ईसाई मिशनों को दिया जाये;

(च) क्या सरकार ने "केअर" द्वारा लगाई गई इस शर्त को स्वीकार कर लिया है; और

(छ) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण है?